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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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Upcoming Events and Training

Disaster Planning for Hospitals. August 9-11, 2006 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by World Research Group. For more information, e-mail info@worldrg.com or visit <http://www.worldrg.com/showConference.cfm?confCode=HW675>.

Missouri Public Health Volunteers Symposium. August 24, 2006 in Jefferson City, MO. Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. For more information, contact Sharlet Howren at howres@dhss.mo.gov.

International City/County Management Association (ICMA) 92nd Annual Conference. September 10-13, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. The conference features a track on emergency management. For more information, visit the ICMA website at www.icma.org/.

2006 National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) Annual Meeting and EMS Expo. September 25-29, 2006 in Las Vegas, NV. Visit www.naemt.org/annualMeetingAndExpo/ for more information.

REGION VII



2006 Disaster Mental Health Conference. November 8-11, 2006 in Casper, WY. Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Institute. For more information, visit www.rmrinstitute.org/call2006.pdf.

IAEM Annual Conference and EMEX Exposition. November 12-15, 2006 in Orlando, FL. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit www.iaem.com.

Mid-America MRC Receives AFA Award

On July 1, 2006, Truman Chapter 185 of the Air Force Association (AFA) presented the Mid-America MRC with a special citation recognizing its efforts to support public health in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Representatives of the Mid-America MRC accepted the award at an "Extraordinary Meeting" and luncheon. At the meeting, Mid-America MRC representatives also explained the mission of the Mid-America MRC and provided information on avian influenza.

The Air Force Association is a tax-exempt charitable education institution which educates the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of the nation, advocates aerospace power and a strong national defense, and supports the United States Air Force and the Air Force Family. The association also administers several scholarships, grants and awards. To

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increase public understanding of key national security issues, its chapters host luncheons, dinners, symposia and legislative roundtables with Congressional leaders. For more information on this award, contact Karen Whitlow, Mid-America MRC Coordinator, at whitlowk@arckc.org.

KU Medical Center Hosting Forum on Pandemic Influenza

The University of Kansas Medical Center Continuing Education is sponsoring a free public forum and information fair on "Community Preparedness for the Next Pandemic in Kansas: Responding to Emerging Infections," on August 19, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Topics to be discussed include:

- History of avian flu and other pandemics
- Likelihood and scope of the threat
- Community preparedness
- Hospital safeguards: Family self-care
- Coping with losses: Guidance from faith and mental health professionals

The fair will be held at the Battenfeld Auditorium and Francisco Lounge, Student Center Building (northeast corner of Olathe and Rainbow Blvds.), University of Kansas Medical Center, in Kansas City, Kansas.

Additional information is available at www.kansas-antiterror.org or by calling (913) 588-1227.

Updating Unit Profiles on the MRC Website

It is very important that MRC units keep their unit profiles on the national MRC website updated. As a registered MRC director and/or coordinator, you have permission to change the information for your unit on the MRC website. You may change or update your unit information as often as you like. However, the MRC national program office requests that you update this information at least once every three months. It is important to update your unit profile on a regular basis. Your unit profile may be one of the first places a potential MRC volunteers goes to find information about joining your unit. If your unit profile does not contain any information, or if it contains old information, the individual may lose interest in becoming a part of your unit, and you may have lost a potential volunteer. In addition, current unit contact information is very important during emergencies, when local officials or the MRC national program office may need to contact you quickly.

To make adjustments to your unit's information, log-on to the MRC website (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) using the username and password you created at registration. Once logged in, you will be given the option in the lefthand frame of the website to "Edit MRC Unit." Click on this tab. The next page will include the fields for your MRC unit, which you have the ability to maintain and keep accurate. These fields include:

- Unit name
- Jurisdiction
- Sponsoring organization
- Point of contact's name
- Unit address
- Phone number
- E-mail address
- Website address
- Activation plan
- Emergency 24/7 contact information
- Brief unit description
- Current activities

After making any corrections, simply click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. This will save your updates and post them to the MRC website for all to reference. Please keep in mind that only the MRC national program office staff and you are able to see the emergency contact and activation process information. This information will not be shared with other users of the MRC website.

If you have any technical issues with this feature, please e-mail MRCWebmaster@ztechcorp.com. For all other questions, feel free to contact the MRC national program office at (301) 443-4951 or send an e-mail to them at MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov.

Thank you very much for ensuring your unit profile is current and reflects your activities and contributions to your community!

New Lawrence-Douglas County MRC Planner

Welcome to Cori Green, the new planner for the Lawrence-Douglas County, KS MRC! Cori is a nurse with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. She graduated from the University of Kansas Medical Center with a nursing degree May 2005. Cori said she has always wanted to work in the public health field and help the community in any way she can. Cori wanted to get involved with the MRC program because she has an interest in public health emergency planning.

Please welcome Cori to the MRC program! She can be reached at (785) 843-3060 or by e-mail at cgreen@ldchd.lawrence.ks.us.

Lessons Learned Information Sharing Network Available to MRC Units

The MRC national program office encourages all of you to sign up on the Lessons Learned Information Sharing network (www.LLIS.gov). LLIS.gov is the Department of Homeland Security's national online network of lessons learned and best practices for the emergency response and homeland security communities. LLIS.gov, developed by the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT) in Oklahoma City, in cooperation with its sponsor, the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training (G&T), helps emergency response providers and homeland security officials prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other disasters. LLIS.gov helps to improve homeland security and emergency preparedness nationwide by allowing local, state and federal responders to tap into a wealth of front-line expertise on the most effective planning, training and operational practices across all homeland security functional areas.

To register, complete the following steps:

1. Click on the following link (or cut and paste this URL into your Web browser):
<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/signup/index.cfm>.
2. Complete all required registration fields. For the Organization ID, please enter the number 144.
3. To expedite your application, enter "MRC Listserv" in the "Please tell us how you found out about LLIS.gov" form field when registering."
4. After completing all required fields, click the "Submit" button (shortly after you submit your initial registration information, you will receive an e-mail asking you to verify your e-mail address, which you can do by clicking the link that is embedded in the e-mail).

LLIS.gov includes many lessons learned, best practices, and good stories. All three are variations on the same basic idea: experiential information that can inform future decision-making for homeland security and emergency response professionals. Lessons Learned are knowledge and experience—positive or negative—

derived from actual incidents, such as the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and the 9/11 attacks, as well as observations and historical studies of operations, training and exercises. Best Practices are peer-validated techniques, procedures, good ideas or solutions that work and are solidly grounded upon actual experience in operations, training and exercises. All Best Practices on Lessons Learned Information Sharing have been reviewed and validated by working groups of homeland security and emergency response professionals. Good Stories are exemplary—but non-peer-validated—initiatives implemented by various jurisdictions that have shown success in their specific environments and that may provide useful information to other communities and organizations.

National Preparedness Month Offers Opportunity to Promote MRC Units

This September, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is sponsoring National Preparedness Month 2006. National Preparedness Month is "a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. The goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action." A wide variety of organizations have joined the National Preparedness Month Coalition, and numerous events and activities related to emergency preparedness will be held across the country in September.

National Preparedness Month offers local MRC units a unique opportunity to conduct public education, outreach and recruiting activities in their communities. In conjunction with National Preparedness Month, MRC units may want to consider conducting or participating in emergency preparedness fairs, workshops, seminars, training programs, exercises and related activities in September. For ideas and examples of National Preparedness Month activities, visit www.ready.gov. You may also wish to visit the national MRC website and message board for information and ideas on activities and events your MRC unit can conduct as part of National Preparedness Month. We hope your MRC unit decides to participate in this opportunity!

Note: Since USA Freedom Corps is already a member of the National Preparedness Month Coalition, it is not necessary for individual MRC units to register as separate National Preparedness Month Coalition members.